(b) if so, whether there is any programme to connect the villages of Gujarat State under this Plan; and

(c) if so, the number of villages of Gujarat proposed to be connected and by when?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana(PMGSY) has been launched with a view to providing road connectivity, through good All-weather roads, to all unconnected Habitations with a population of more than 500 persons by the year 2007, depending on availability of funds. This Programme is extended to all States, including Gujarat.

Uwjmployed persons in rural areas

1291. SHRl SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the estimated number of unemployed persons in rural areas of the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) whether any evaluation of the Central Government's programmes has been made to increase employment opportunities in rural areas in the country; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) A statement showing estimated number of unemployed persons in rural areas of the country, including Maharashtra, is enclosed (see below).

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission has conducted an evaluation study on Employment Assurance Scheme and submitted its report in April, 2000. Total 14 Districts including Maharashtra have been covered in their Report. The relevant finding of the Report is that with the available funds, the employment generation was not able to meet the demand. Ministry of Rural Development have requested from time to time for more funds.

Statement

Number of unemployed persons in rural areas of the country

Name of the Slate/UT	No. of persons (in 000s)
Andhra Pradesh	120
Arunachal Pradesh	4
Assam	406
Bihar	446
Goa	29
Gujarat Haryana	126
Himachal Pradesh	57
	15
Jammu & Kashmir	21
Karnataka	118
Kerala	619
Madhya Pradesh	123
Maharashtra	202
Manipur	6
Meghalaya	2
Mizoram	2
Nagaland	5
Orissa	183
Punjab	78
Rajasthan	47 1
Sikkim	
Tamil Nadu	269
Tripura Uttar	20
Pradesh	318
West Bengal	351
A&N Islands	3
Chandigarh	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
Daman & Diu	0
Delhi	0
Lakshadweep	1
Pondicherry	3
TOTAL (All-India)	3575

(Figures based on NSS 1993-1994)